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AMENDMENT

TO: Commissioner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application  
PCT/JP99/04238

2. Applicant

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4. Date of Invitation: 12. 05. 2000

5. Item to be Amended: (1) Claims

6. Subject Matter of Correction:

(1) In claim 18, "The pharmaceutical composition" is  
changed to --The use--.

(2) In claim 19, "The pharmaceutical composition" is  
changed to --The use--.

(3) In claim 20, "The pharmaceutical composition" is changed to --The use--.

(4) In claim 21, "The pharmaceutical composition" is changed to --The use--.

(5) In claim 22, "The pharmaceutical composition" is changed to --The use--.

7. List of Attached Documents

(1) New sheet of page 19: 1 copy

biological activity of galectin-3 is an anti-galectin 3 antibody.

18. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound having an  
5 inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an inhibitor of galectin 3 binding.

19. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-  
10 3 is a compound that inhibits the incorporation of galectin 3 into the cell.

20. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that  
15 modulates the transfer of galectin 3 into the nucleus.

21. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the physiological activity of galectin 3 in the  
20 nucleus or the cytoplasm.

22. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the expression or secretion of galectin 3.

23. The use according to any one of claims 13 to 22, which is for a therapeutic or preventive use.

24. The use according to any of claims 15 to 23, wherein the glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis is glomerular nephritis, diabetic  
30 nephropathy or tissue fibrosis, respectively, caused by the abnormal proliferation of mesangium cells.

25. A method for inhibition of the overproduction and the accumulation of extracellular matrix, said method comprising administering a compound having an inhibitory  
35 effect on the biological activity of galectin-3, to a subject which needs said inhibition.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the